

## **Aviation Training Exercise (ATX)**

### **What is it?**

ATXs are 10-day multi-echelon exercises conducted on specific terrain representing a unit's area of operation. The training support package (TSP) for each ATX is developed to support the unit commander's Mission Essential Task List (METL) and meet his specified training objectives. The Directorate of Simulation (DOS) at Fort Rucker has executed 71 Brigade and Battalion ATXs since March 1997. The LTG George P. Seneff Aviation Warfighting Simulation Center (AWSC) is the Army's premier facility for conducting Live, Virtual, Constructive, and Gaming ATXs in support of deploying Active and Reserve Component combat aviation brigades.

### **What has Army Aviation done?**

The AWSC typically supports 10 ATXs annually, with surge capacity of 12. The TSP is designed to test each unit's planning and procedures while training with specific airframe task organization, projected mission sets, Army Battle Command Systems (ABCS), and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Unit Commanders focus their training on SOP/Battle Drill validation and refinement, MDMP, and team building from the crew through Brigade Staff using reconfigurable virtual simulators to "fly" missions. Units additionally receive two days of academics and information briefings which include: combat Readiness Center (CRC) Safety, Spins/PR, Aircraft Shoot Down Assessment Team (ASDAT), Army Battle Command System (ABCS), Media on the Battlefield, TTVS. The AWSC at Fort Rucker can provide 24 virtual helicopter cockpits (18 Reconfigurable Collective Training Device (RCTD) and six Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (AVCATT). The AWSC maintains the capability to distribute part of the exercise using the unit's home station AVCATT and Battle Command Training Center (BCTC). The AWSC has a state of the art AAR facility which can seat more than 300, and can project audio/video capture and replay the simulated missions through eight projection screens providing a Combat Training Center (CTC) hu-like, world class After Action Review (AAR) venue.

### **What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?**

The ATXs will continue to improve the technical capabilities and planning to match current operational challenges and relentlessly improve fidelity and realism. Some of the specific goals are realistic Manned-Unmanned teaming, better integrated air-ground integration, enhanced synthetic ground tactical and Intel picture, ubiquitous ABCS, and improve logistics play.

### **Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?**

Previously, combat Aviation Brigades (CABs) were not afforded the opportunity to conduct brigade level exercises at the CTCs. The ATX is the only training exercise focused on the CAB and its subordinate units in a collective training environment. As Aviation's primary role is to support the ground commander, the majority of its collective training is also in support of the ground commander and his objectives. The ATX offers a unique opportunity for the CAB commander to perfect the unit's aviation centric planning and execution capabilities in order to best support the ground commander.

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